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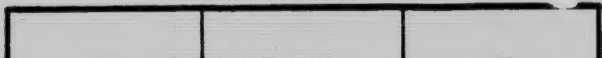

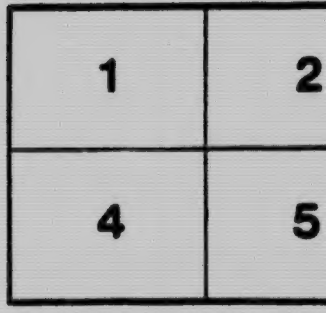

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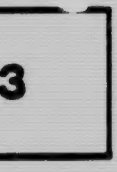

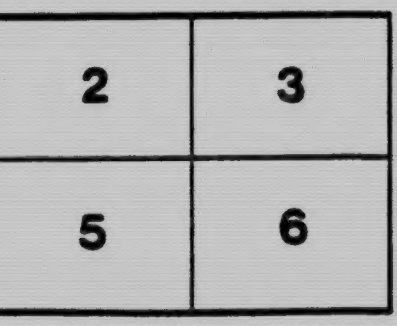

F179 [1908] Corsi H.O.

Extracts from pamphlet containing article from the Sentinel (the Orange and Protestant Advocate) being circulated among the Protestant voters at the present election:—

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THE DUTY OF THE HOUR.

Reasons why Protestants and Provincial Rights Supporters should be active in the coming election.

RITTINGER & MOTZ, PRINTERS, BERLIN.

F5012 [1908] C755

F5013[1908]C755

THE DUTY OF THE HOUR.

The general election which is shortly to be held is of **more than ordinary importance to the Orange Association.** As citizens they are deeply interested in the good government of the country They are not unmoved by the evidences of looseness and dishonesty which have been produced during the last two sessions of Parliament. But for them the supreme issue is the Autonomy Bills of 1905. This will be the first opportunity to express their condemnation of the coercion of Saskatchewan and Alberta. That obnoxious measure was conceived in secrecy and forced through Parliament by the most discreditable methods. Moreover, there seems to be no intention of the party press giving the attention to this question that it deserves. The papers will devote their space and the talents of their editors to the discussion of the extravagance of the Government, and enlarge upon the suspicious transactions which have been exposed. But probably little will be said about the question which to our mind is the one that overshadows all others in its importance.

For these reasons it seems wise that we should devote some space to a plain statement of the case in order that those who are opposed to clerical domination, and support the principle of Provincial rights, may have the facts before them in concise and consecutive form.

The Sentinel takes the ground that in the coming contest it will be the duty of every man who is connected with the Association to take an active part in opposing the return of the Laurier Government. The administration has been **guilty of submitting to the encroachments of the Church of Rome** in the educational affairs of the two new Provinces, to a degree that has no parallel in the political history of this country. Those who are politicians before they are Orangemen may disagree with our view. There are men in this country who make a religion of their politics. They worship their party and their party leaders. We cannot hope to carry the judgment of such men when we advocate special activity for the defeat of the present Government.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier led his party to a violation of the constitution and the abandonment of the sound position which it took with regard to the remedial legislation of 1896. In forcing the Autonomy Bills through Parliament he was guilty of an act that was offensive to every man who believes in the doctrine of Provincial rights, or is opposed to clerical interference in the laws of the country. If his course had been dictated with a desire to bring him and his party into direct and acute conflict with the Orange Association, it could not have taken a better direction. He placed the Government of the Dominion of Canada, so far as the school legislation of the two new Provinces is concerned, in the hands of the papal delegate, Mgr. Sbarretti.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has deliberately and flagrantly violated the constitution by forcing Separate Schools upon the two Western Provinces.

This is the supreme issue of the coming election for the members of the Orange Association. No matter what view a member takes on questions of general policy, we submit that if he is true to the obligation he has taken, he must do what he can, to bring about the defeat of the present administration. We urge this in no partisan sense, but for the maintenance of those principles upon which the order is founded, principles which, in the abstract, even Sir Wilfrid Laurier admits to be sound. We would like to impress upon the minds of our readers the conviction that in the coming contest this one issue should take precedence of all other questions.

THE DEAL WITH THE BISHOPS.

The policy of the party and statements of the leader were so clear cut that there was no fear in the public mind that any attempt would ever be made to coerce a Province in relation to its school laws, while Sir Wilfrid Laurier was Premier or the Liberals held power. This confidence in the integrity of the government made it impossible to convince the people that a deal was made with the bishops in the early fall of 1904. A report was published in The News of Toronto, that the bishops had held a conference at Three Rivers, at which an arrangement was made, by which they were guaranteed that Separate Schools would be provided for in the bills granting autonomy to the two new Provinces. Archbishop Bruchesi denied the accuracy of this report. Sir Wilfrid Laurier maintained perfect silence regarding it. The Globe did not deny it. A policy of secrecy and silence was adopted which effectually allayed the suspicions aroused. Nobody could believe that a Liberal Government would so completely discredit the whole record of the party. That the compact was made, as reported in The News, was borne out by subsequent events. The exact terms of the bargain is a secret of the Roman Catholic Church. There is ample reason to believe that one of the conditions was that the bills, when presented to Parliament, should have the approval of the papal delegate.

THE PAPAL DELEGATE THE REFEREE.

The part which Mgr. Sbarretti took in the revision of the bills was a feature of the case that should not be lost sight of. From the library of his palace in Ottawa came the draft bill before Parliament had it. The spectacle was seen in the capital of the Premier of the Dominion driving to the home of the papal delegate to consult him before consulting his colleagues. The care that was taken to have the appoval of Mgr. Sbarretti left the impression that an important part of the deal made at Three Rivers was that the Pope's representative should be the referee between the bishops and the Government. We ask our readers to consider this situation. Here is a question affecting in a vital way the whole future of two Canadian Provinces. One would suppose that it could be settled by Canadian statesmen. They were assembled in Ottawa. Their views could have been obtained with the utmost despatch. Why call in an Italian prelate to dictate what our Parliament should do? Was there ever a more humiliating incident than this? The men elected by the enfranchised citizens of Canada were compelled to accept from a foreigner a law that was repugnant to nine-tenths of the electorate outside of the Province of Quebec; and, we make bold to say, repugnant to the better judgment of nine-tenths of the representatives in Parliament, excepting, of course, the Quebec delegation.

But that was not all the papal delegate's power. He was able, through the subservience of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, or the terms of the Three Rivers compact, to fix the boundaries of Manitoba. In the erection of the two new Provinces the question of the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba was involved. The Manitoba Government made representations to the Federal authorities, and two of the Ministers visited Ottawa to press the claims of that Province. They met Sir Wilfrid Laurier by appointment on February 16. He asked them to wait for three days. At the end of that period they received a letter from the papal delegate asking for a conference. They met him. He presented a memorandum providing for the establishment of Separate Schools in Manitoba, and informed Mr. Rogers and his colleague that only upon the acceptance of this arrangement could Manitoba have its boundaries enlarged. These terms were indignantly rejected by the Ministers, and they left for home.

Who gave Mgr. Sbarretti authority to make terms for the adjustment of the boundaries of a Canadian Province? Who could empower him to do do this but Sir Wilfrid Laurier? Note, also, that till the present time Manitoba has had no definite answer to its demand for enlargement of its area. This question has been kept in the background designedly. It awaits the expected return of the Liberal party to power. Then the gallant little Province will be forced to accept the terms of the papal delegate, or remain as at present constituted. It is an outrage upon the people of that Province which should be resented by the electors of all Canada. Let us ask our readers to consider what Canada is coming to when such questions as those affecting the territorial claims of a Province are submitted to the adjudication of an Italian priest? Is it

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not getting very close to the exercise of temporal power in this country by the Pope? The Government absolutely subservient to papal authority places the rewards and punishments for contumacy in the hands of the bishops. Surely this should make us rise with determination to drive from the seats of power and authority the men who have so grossly outraged the basic principles of British policy.

No effort was spared; no plan left untried; no expedient neglected that promised to assist in weakening the opposition to the bills. **The Church with its boundless resources of money and influence, played the game for all it was worth.** It won. On May 4th, at 1.40 in the morning, the law was enacted in the House of Commons by a vote of 140 to 59, a single Liberal, Mr. McCarthy of Simcoe, voting against coercion.

This completed the conspiracy against the educational freedom of the West. It was concocted in the monasteries of Quebec. It was carried through by a Roman Catholic Premier. The parties to it included the French bishops, the Dominion Government, and the Liberal party in Parliament.

A CALL TO ARMS.

In view of what we have set out in the foregoing we urge the Orangemen of Canada to make more than an ordinary effort to secure the defeat of the Laurier Government.

This is a fight in which the Orangemen of Canada can yield great influence. They owe a duty to themselves, and a broader duty to the country in this election. For the next two months they should labor unceasingly for the defeat of the Laurier candidates. By argument, by personal canvass, by all means that are effective in winning their friends to a clear view of their duty, they should strive for the end in view. The month of November will see the new Parliament elected. If it is led by Sir Wilfrid Laurier there will be further submissions to clerical influence. Manitoba will not have her boundaries extended. The clerical schools will be more firmly shackled upon the Western Provinces. All this may be prevented if the Laurier Government is defeated. Mr. Borden, we are free to admit, has not taken as strong a position as we could desire. But if he is elected it will be as a protest against the subservience of the present Government to the bishops of Quebec. That will convey a much needed lesson to the leaders of both parties. Let them know that there is one thing that the people of Canada will not condone—**the despoiling of the Provinces at the command of the Hierarchy.** Make that plain by your votes. The Conservative party was taught that lesson in 1896. The Liberal party must learn it in 1908, if this country is to be saved from **the curse of clerical domination.**